

Zone

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month. Moreck also believes that the comprehensive plan for the township is outdated. "It is 16 years old and since it was made up there have been changes made to properties near our area," he said.

Moreck noted that a masonry business was permitted across the road from the property he is interested in and a trailer park near the land was allowed to expand its storage and repair facility.

"This all indicates to me that the comprehensive plan allows things like this one time and denies others another time. I think that the township has to say what the long term plans for that area are," he said.

Township manager Jeffrey Box, said that it was not unusual for a comprehensive plan to be used for more than 16 years. "It is not unreasonable to say that the life-span of the plan is between 20 and 25 years," he said.

"I don't think that they had the best interest of the township or the neighborhood in mind when they made the decision."

John Moreck
Developer

"In 1988 the township did apply to the Department of Community Affairs for a grant to make a new comprehensive plan but that application was denied," he said. The township has allotted money in its 1991 budget to again apply to DCA for a grant to make a new comprehensive plan.

Box also said that the plan does call for that area along Harris Hill road to be residential. "Generally that is what they want it to be," he said.

Moreck does not believe that is the case. "It isn't A-1 (agricultural) anymore and they've already turned down a B-1 (commercial) and an R-2 (residential). What else is there?" he asked.

Part of the issue may be decided this week in Luzerne County Court. Moreck has asked that the court overturn a decision made by the township's zoning hearing board last year on a variance application to the land.

The application asked that the land remain A-1 but that a variance be granted on the barn so that he could use it for his business.

Moreck had also applied to the township to have just 1.6 acres of land rezoned but that was also denied by the supervisors, who said that it would have been "spot zoning" if it would have been approved.

Throughout the whole process, the applications have been opposed by neighbors and other property owners in that area. Neighbors testified at the public hearings that allowing Moreck's business would create a hazard to children in the community because of the extra traffic and equipment that would be in the area.

Those who opposed the applications said they were happy with the latest decision but would not further comment on the situation pending possible appeals by Moreck.

Moreck said that further legal action may be possible pending the outcome of this week's court action. "A lot of things can happen and there are a lot of things the township should be worried about," he said.

"I don't think that they had the best interest of the township or the neighborhood in mind when they made the decision and I am going to keep fighting for it. We are not going to fold up and go away," he added.

Vigil

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Wert of the Shavertown UMC. "People were calling out names for anyone who happened to be connected to the Mideast conflict."

Wert said that many names were called, even for soldiers from other countries.

"There were prayers made for the Iraqi soldiers as well as the U.N. soldiers," said Wert. "This truly showed the people's concern for peace because the prayers were made for all soldiers to show their human dignity in that there is an Iraqi family who has a son or daughter serving in their army and they want them to come home as much as the Americans want their children to come home."

Others in attendance at the ceremony agreed that the calling out of names was the high point.

"It was really inspiring to see such concern and support," said Seminarian Tom Sueta, who represented St. Therese's Church.

"It was amazing to hear how many names were called out," added Sueta. "This showed that everyone, in some way, is touched by the situation. Whether it be a family member, friend, neighbor or fellow employee who may be fighting overseas, everyone is affected."

Mrs. Mary Lou Swingle, whose two sons are in the armed forces, was a member of the audience and said that she was very touched by the whole service, especially the final portion. "I was surprised at how many names were called out," she said. "I think it helped some families feel a little comfort in the situation."

Another attendee at the service agreed. "It was the greatest thing when the names of the men and women were called out," said the woman, who asked not to be identified citing the personal nature of the situation.

"It was very dynamic. In fact the man in front of me made a prayer for Saddam Hussein," she said. "To me he (Hussein) is the one who needs most of our prayers."

The service accomplished its goal

The service was put together with hopes of gathering the community around the goal of praying for a peaceful solution. Afterwards, the organizers felt the community left with something to remember.

"It is hard to say that something like this was successful," said Rev. Wert. "I will say that the purpose was fulfilled."

"We wanted a community-wide service so that people could express their concerns, fears and anxieties as well as their hopes and desires for a peaceful solution," he added.

Wert said that the reaction from those in attendance during the ceremony showed that there is genuine



LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH - Approximately 400 participants in Sunday night's vigil conclude the ceremony with a moving plea for peace. (Post Photo/Charlotte Bartizek)

concern in the Back Mountain about the Mideast situation.

"Some people said they felt they gained an inner strength and courage as well as some comfort from the service," said Wert. "It was beautiful to see the spirit and the inner faith that flowed throughout the service from members of all the churches and all the local communities."

Sueta agreed with Wert's observation. "It really did show the concern of the people in the Back Mountain as to what is going on," he said. "It also showed the unity as well among area residents as the service brought together a mixture of all faiths and people."

Large crowd was not a surprise

Despite the fact that there was only one week's preparation for the service, the church was nearly filled Sunday night. Rev. Wert was pleased at the turnout but was not really surprised.

"I was an optimist," he said. "I had hoped for a large

crowd and I have to say that I was pleased with the large crowd."

Swingle said she was also pleased and just a little surprised at the crowd.

"It was wonderful to see that many people come out," said Swingle. "I think that there was a need for something like this where families and others can come out and show their support of one another and to voice their prayers," she added.

Swingle also said that other services like this may be needed in the future, depending on the situation. "If war would break out I would like to see something like this happen once a month," she said.

Future services might be forthcoming until the confrontation is resolved. "We didn't mean this as a one-shot deal," said Sueta. "We wanted to show that there is a need for continued prayer and I think we did just that. No one could have left the service untouched. It really hit you," he said.

Mideast

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and the second one because of his attitude.

"Michael has been a survivor since he was born and he is still a survivor," said his mother. "He has a lot of men under him. He was delighted with the letters, cards and packages he received. He couldn't believe it at first," Mrs. Newell explained. "He has moved twice since he went to the Mideast but he can't say where he is located."

"We send him a lot of packages and the items he asks for most are instant coffee and also Slim Jims."

For those residents or students who want to write to Michael Newell his address is: Sgt. Michael Newell, 164483290, 9SR W/OL-CH Deployed, APO N.Y. 09017.

"He is in a very restricted area and they get none of the entertainers nor others who come over to visit the service people," said Mrs. Newell.

Mother of two misses her family

Capt. Tina Charney Kravits, daughter of John and Elaine Charney of Dallas, also went to the Mideast in August. A captain in the United States Air Force, Tina is the chief of the 42nd Bombardment Wing out of Loring AFB in Maine. She is the mother of two boys, Brian William, 5, and Joshua, 3. Her husband Brian, and her sister, who is attending college in Caribou, Maine, are taking care of the two boys.

When Kravits left for Saudi Arabia, she was sure she would be home to take her son to his first day of Kindergarten but that thought didn't last long. Then she was certain she would get home for Christmas but that didn't happen either.



MICHAEL NEWELL

"We had a letter from her telling us she expected to get home in February, but then she called and told us maybe in May. But if war is declared all leaves will be cancelled indefinitely," said Mrs. Charney.

"The two boys were with us for the first two weeks in December. Their dad likes to hunt so he took a vacation from his job at the base and came down here. It was wonderful to have them."

"Brian, their dad, is taking it hard and he was uncertain about Christmas and he had to be back to the base before Christmas. He is a wonderful husband and father and he made it through all right. Others on the base helped to make it easier and although it was an emotional time, he and the boys got through it."

Mrs. Charney said Tina has called about three times since she has been in the Mideast. "She called



TINA CHARNEY KRAVITS

Christmas night and that call was very emotional. She is worried about her boys and Brian. She never thought it would be like this.

"We have all been counting down until January 15 and I sat by the phone all day on Wednesday waiting for the phone to ring. After six hours of negotiating I was sure something would be settled and it was a big disappointment when nothing was settled."

"The last letter she wrote to me Tina said there was a freeze on everything and she was not allowed to say where she was. She wrote it in a hurry and said she had to sign off because one of the men was going on the Guam and she wanted to get it in the mail. I received that letter in six days, which was unusual," Mrs. Charney said.

Mrs. Charney said Tina wants snacks sent to her, especially Tasty Cakes. The last time she sent them, she and the others with her had them for their supper. It was all they had to eat because something was fouled up.

"The last time she called we were able to talk with one another instead of crying. Tina told me she had been in the hospital because she had been dehydrated. She said the milk is terrible. It comes in a box and tastes so terrible she couldn't drink it. She hopes that someday she will be able to sit down and tell me all about it. I worry about her all the time."

For those who would like to send cards, letters or small items of any kind to Tina her address is: Captain Tina Kravits, P.O. Box 29 (SAC), F.P.O. San Francisco, CAL. 96685-2000.

Lehman to add computer courses

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

At their board meeting January 8, Lake-Lehman School Board members approved a recommendation by District Superintendent Nancy Davis to add a Computer Application Course to the 10th, 11th and 12th year students curriculum during the 1991-1992 school year.

The course will be a one semester half-credit course with a quarter credit in math and a quarter credit in English. It will include word processing, data base and spread sheet instruction, with its major goal being to prepare the students to be employable after graduation. There will be no additional cost to the district for computers since they are already available in the high school.

Board action was requested to accept the release of Jack McManus from his 1990-1991 transportation contract and award the contract to Brad Smales of Montrose under the same terms as stipulated in McManus' contract.



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